

# **Criminal Law Instruments Against Organized Crime**

## **Abstract**

This master's thesis elaborates an in-depth analysis of criminal law instruments used in a fight against organized crime. Given that organized crime, and criminal offences committed in an organized manner in general, represent one of the gravest forms of criminal behaviour, these legal institutes are of utmost importance in the contemporary debate on this topic, led by both scholars and the wider public. The first part of this thesis introduces the notion of organized crime. It further demonstrates the inherent difficulties in defining this notion and enumerates the different approaches that may be taken in respect of its classification. Lastly, it categorizes legal instruments the objective of which is to eradicate this phenomenon. The second part conducts a detailed examination of intensified criminal law repression of organised crime. In this respect, the thesis puts special emphasis on the intricacies associated with the punishment of offences perpetrated by an organized criminal group and their individual perpetrators. The third part of this work is dedicated to the concept of accomplice witness, crown witness, informant and to certain investigative instruments. The final part of this thesis is devoted to instruments used in relation to witness protection in the context of the persecution of organized crime. Most notably, it focuses on the possibility of concealing the identity of a witness. The description of these instruments is complemented by the viewpoints of the author of this thesis as well as of those of eminent scholars in the field. These competing perspectives contemplate the appropriateness of the current legal regime of witness protection and suggest a path to be taken in respect of its amendment. Therefore, this thesis presents an analysis of certain criminal law instruments used in a fight against organized crime and critical assessment of their shortcomings. To that effect, the author proposes changes that may enhance their efficacy.